

Green River FFA Regional Land Judging Competition

Submitted by Shanna Drake

In early October, Amanda Arnold, an employee of the Butler County Conservation District, assisted with the Green River FFA Regional Land Judging Competition in the Provo area of Butler County. The event was held on property operated by Shane Wells, the current KACD vice-president and chairman of the Butler County Conservation District. Approximately 20 students plus the advisors from five FFA chapters participated in the event, which was sponsored by Farm Credit Services.

Students judged soil cores that had been pulled a few days earlier by Arnold, NRCS Soil Scientist Dave Gehring and NRCS Technician Ryan Pendley. Four sites were included in the event: two hayland sites and two cropland sites. Students evaluated several cores from each site. Things such as erosion, slope and texture of the soil, as well as other factors, were considered.

According to Arnold, "The varying soil types and topography posed a true challenge for the students in identifying soil characteristics and determining the soil conservation measures needed for each site. They were able to experience how much soil types can vary from county to county, and for some it was the first time that they had seen the soil types used in the contest."

The FFA chapter from Apollo High School, located in Daviess County, was the winner of the event. They will go on to compete in the State FFA Land Judging Competition.